

MWA Home and Overseas Paper

'I made you wonderful' from Psalm 139

It's that time of year again when we are thinking about the 2025 World Day of Prayer service. This year, the service, which has been written by the Christian women of the Cook Islands, will take place on Friday 7th March.

The Cook Islands can be found in the Pacific Ocean and consist of 15 islands, 12 of which are inhabited, spread over nearly 800,000 square miles of water. The majority of the population, approximately 15,000, inhabits the main island of Rarotonga. Although totalling 15 islands, the area altogether is less than that of the Isle of Wight.



Aligned to the United Kingdom in 1890, the islands were included within the boundaries of the Colony of New Zealand in 1901. Since that time the Cook Islands have had a formal relationship with New Zealand which is still realised through its health and education systems; links have been established with large NZ hospitals and NZ further educational establishments offer places for Cook Islands students. The islands remained a New Zealand dependent territory until the New Zealand Government decided to grant them self-governing status. On 4 August 1965, a constitution was promulgated. The first Monday in August is celebrated each year as Constitution Day.

Christianity first came to the Cook Islands in 1821 with the arrival of missionaries and, in particular, the Reverend John Williams and the London Missionary Society. Christianity is now the most prevalent religion with 84% of the population identifying themselves as belonging to one of the major Christian denominations: Cook Islands Christian Church, the Catholic Church, Seventh Day Adventists, Mormons, Assemblies of God and the Apostolic Church.

The diverse roles undertaken by women are significant in contributing to the fabric of Cook Islands communities. They are involved in all manner

of community, church and business ventures making them vital in the economy of the country.

As ever, I would ask you to consider attending a World Day of Prayer service on March 7th 2025. Please go online (wwdp.org.uk) to find a service near you. If your church is hosting a service then, please, take photos and send them, with a brief explanation, to Vix Daniels, the Office Manager at World Day of Prayer, EWNI. Julie Tomberlin (julie.unitywomen@gmail.com) at the Moravian Unity Women's Desk, would also like to hear from you as she features the service on her quarterly newsletter.

Remember, the World DAY of Prayer is only the day of the annual service. Prayers are needed throughout the year for the concerns of the world. We are still praying for a peaceful conclusion to the ongoing conflict in Palestine, the focus of our prayer day in 2024.

Maureen Colbert

Moravian Representative on the National Committee, World Day of Prayer, England, Wales and Northern Ireland.